

**June 19, 2012**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This week, U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) introduced legislation to rename the Ellwood City Post Office the Sergeant Leslie H. Sabo, Jr. Post Office Building in recognition of Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant Leslie H. Sabo. Sergeant Sabo was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on May 16, 2012 in a White House ceremony.

**"The story of Sergeant Sabo's service is an inspiration to us all,"** Congressman Altmire said. **"By renaming the Ellwood City Post Office in his honor we can do our small part to pay tribute to this exceptionally heroic man and his family for the sacrifices they made for our country."**

**"It is an honor to have the Ellwood City Post Office renamed after Leslie for his heroic actions. The support my family and I have received has been astounding and I thank everyone involved in continuing Leslie's legacy,"** said Rose Mary Sabo-Brown, Sergeant Sabo's widow.

Sam Toelis, Chairman of the Committee to Honor Medal of Honor Recipient Sergeant Leslie H. Sabo, Jr. praised the introduction of the bill saying, **"We thank Congressman Altmire for his efforts to recognize Sergeant Sabo. Sergeant Sabo is a local hero to Ellwood City residents, as well as a hero to the nation he gave his life protecting.□ □ This legislation will help keep Sergeant Sabo's memory alive in Ellwood City."**

Background:

On May 10, 1970, Sergeant Sabo and his platoon were ambushed by North Vietnamese soldiers. Amidst heavy fire, he ran to distribute ammunition to his fellow soldiers and was wounded as he threw himself over a wounded comrade to shield him from a grenade blast. Despite his wounds, Sabo fired and provided cover to medical evacuation helicopters as they retrieved wounded soldiers. Sabo was then killed by enemy fire.

Sergeant Sabo's MOH recommendation languished for decades until it was discovered in 1999 by Alton Mabb, a Vietnam veteran from Florida in the National Archives. Mabb contacted his Congresswoman, Corrine Brown, who later inserted language in the Fiscal Year 2008 Department of Defense (DOD) Authorization bill granting the president the authority to award Sabo the MOH, even though the three-year statute of limitations for his award had long expired.

After being contacted by Sabo's widow, Rose Mary Sabo-Brown, Congressmen Altmire and Jim Gerlach (PA-06) urged DOD officials to complete consideration of this case as soon as possible. After repeated letters and phone calls, U.S. Secretary of the Army John McHugh finally contacted Congressman Altmire on March 31, 2010 to say to that U.S. Department of Defense was officially recommending that the President award Sabo the MOH.